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BOROUGH OF WIDNES



Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for

1965

BOROUGH OF WIDNES
A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1965

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my report on the health of Widnes for the year 1965 which compares favourably in many respects with the highly satisfactory position obtaining the previous year. The main feature being an emphatic endorsement of the substantial reduction in infant deaths recorded for 1964.

The adjusted birth rate remained high, but at 20.7 per 1,000 of the population showed a slight reduction over the previous year. The adjusted death rate of 14.0 per 1,000 of the population was the lowest since 1959. The rates for England & Wales were 18.1 and 11.5 per 1,000 respectively.

The infant mortality rate of 20.1 per 1,000 total live births and the stillbirth rate of 13.2 per 1,000 total births were both the lowest ever recorded. The previous lowest recorded figures were 23.2 and 17.9 respectively but these did not occur together and the significance of the statistics for 1965 lies in a comparison between the infant death + stillbirth rate for 1965 of 33 and the next lowest recorded figure of 44 per 1,000 total births. The perinatal mortality rate of 24.7 per 1,000 total births was also a very much lower figure than any previously recorded in the Borough. There were, however, two maternal deaths during the year.

Among other causes of death the main group was again one relating to diseases of the circulatory system which accounted for almost 34 per cent of total deaths as against 18.7 per cent for cancer, 16 per cent for diseases of the respiratory system, 14 per cent for vascular lesions of the nervous system and 4 per cent for accidents. All these, with the exception of deaths from cancer showed a slight increase over the previous year but deaths under 65 years of age fell from 39 to 38 per cent of the total.

There were only 7 cases of respiratory tuberculosis notified during the year; a very much lower figure than for any year previously. On the other hand there were also 7 deaths from the disease, a death rate of .13 per 1,000 of the population as against an average .05 over the previous five years. The total number of notifications of infectious diseases was little over half the number of the previous year and once again measles accounted for a high percentage of these.

The public health department was again able to maintain a full establishment of public health inspectors and was thus able to give adequate attention to all aspects of its duties. It was necessary during the year to devote a considerable amount of time to implementing the provisions of the Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act. Some of the work is of course once and for all and administration of the Act should now be able to proceed along with other work as part of normal routine. Statistical details only are given in the body of this report; a report dealing specifically with the administration of this Act has been published separately.

In accordance with the policy of the council the work involved in the creation of smokeless zones has proceeded without interruption. Number 4 Smoke Control Order was put into effect and conversion of fire grates and incidental work on No. 5 area was commenced. In addition the proposed number 6 area was surveyed and an estimate of costs drawn up. Numbers 4 and 5 Smoke Control Orders covered mainly Corporation owned houses whereas the proposed No. 6 Order is concerned with privately owned dwellings. The attention of the department has also been continuously focused on other kinds and other sources of atmospheric pollution and progress is continuously being made.

The high standard of hygiene which is insisted upon in all places where food is prepared, stored and sold for public consumption has been maintained during the year and it is perhaps significant that no cases of food poisoning were notified.

One hundred and eighty-seven houses were represented for demolition or clearance and 127 actually demolished and 3 closed during the year. In addition 273 housing defects were remedied after service of notice.

In conclusion I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Health Committee for this support and encouragement during the year, and also to the officials of the Corporation, in particular Mr. D. M. Griffiths for his assistance at all times.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

F. W. BUNTING,

Medical Officer of Health.

Health Centre,
Kingsway,
Widnes

Tel. No. Widnes 3055

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of the Borough in acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,178
Population at Census, 1961	...	...	...	...	...	...	52,186
Population estimated, 1965	...	...	...	...	...	...	54,280
Density of Population (i.e. no. of persons per acre)	...						8.8
No. of Inhabited Houses (1961 Census)	...	...	...	...	...	...	15,146
No. of Inhabited Houses (end of 1965 according to rate book)							16,176
Rateable Value of Borough	...	...	...	...	...	...	£1,913,347
Sum represented by 1d rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£7,606

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

Live Births

Number - Male 601	Females 596	...	...	...	...	1,197
Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	20.7
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	...					5.6

Stillbirths

Number	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	...	...	...	...	...	...	13.2
Total live and stillbirths	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,213
Infant deaths (deaths under 1 year)	...	...	...	...	...	...	24

Infant mortality rates

Total infant deaths per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	20.1
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	18.6
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	44.8

Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	13.4
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Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	11.7
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Perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	...						24.7
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Maternal mortality (including abortion)

Number of deaths	2
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	1.65

Deaths

Number - Males 309	Females 266	...	...	...	...	575
Rate per 1,000 population - Crude	...	...	...	...	...	10.6
Adjusted	...	...	...	...	...	14.0
Excess of births over deaths	...	...	...	...	...	622
Death rate from influenza per 1,000 of the population	...					Nil
Death rate from cancer per 1,000 of the population	...					1.99
Death rate from respiratory tuberculosis per 1,000 of the population	...	...	...	...	...	0.13
Death rate from measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Death rate from whooping cough	...	...	...	...	...	0.02
Percentage of total deaths occurring in hospitals etc.	...					54

POPULATION -

The population returns since 1861 are given below:-

Year	Population	Inhabited houses	Average per house
1861	6,893	1,150	5.99
1871	14,359	2,519	5.66
1881	24,918	4,994	5.00
1891	30,011	5,121	5.86
1901	28,580	5,350	5.34
1911	31,544	6,102	5.16
1921	38,879	7,437	5.22
1931	40,619	8,534	4.63
1951	48,785	12,459	3.91
1961	52,186	15,146	3.45
Est. 1965	54,280	16,176	3.36

The Registrar General's estimate of the population for the year 1965 was 54,280. This is an increase of 610 over the estimated population for 1964.

LIVE BIRTHS -

		Totals	Males	Females		
Legitimate	... ..	1,130	566	564	} Birth-rate	20.7
Illegitimate	... ..	67	35	32		
Birth-rate for England and Wales			... ..	... ..	... ..	18.1

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS -

The percentage of births which were illegitimate during each of the past fifteen years is as follows:-

1951	.....	5.1 per cent	1958	.....	4.1 per cent
1952	.....	4.1 per cent	1959	.....	4.7 per cent
1953	.....	4.2 per cent	1960	.....	3.8 per cent
1954	.....	3.2 per cent	1961	.....	5.2 per cent
1955	.....	3.3 per cent	1962	.....	4.4 per cent
1956	.....	4.0 per cent	1963	.....	4.4 per cent
1957	.....	4.2 per cent	1964	.....	5.5 per cent
		1965	.....		5.6 per cent

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR 1965

CAUSES OF DEATH	Sex	All ages	Under 1 year	1 - 4 years	5 - 14 years	15 - 24 years	25 - 44 years	45 - 64 years	65 - 74 years	75 years and over
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	M	4	1	1	1	1	1	4	1	1
	F	3	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1
Syphilitic disease	M	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	F	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Whooping cough	M	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	F	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases	M	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	F	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Malignant Neoplasms -										
Stomach	M	7	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	3
	F	8	1	1	1	1	1	4	1	3
Lung, bronchus	M	33	1	1	1	1	1	25	4	4
	F	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Breast	M	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	F	7	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3
Uterus	F	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	M	23	1	1	1	1	1	9	5	7
	F	20	1	1	1	1	1	11	3	6
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	M	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	F	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Diabetes	M	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	F	7	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	M	33	1	1	1	1	1	9	6	17
	F	47	1	1	1	1	1	4	16	27
Coronary disease, angina	M	62	1	1	1	1	1	29	24	8
	F	33	1	1	1	1	1	5	10	18
Hypertension with heart disease	M	6	1	1	1	1	1	3	2	1
	F	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	4
Other heart disease	M	23	1	1	1	1	1	7	2	13
	F	33	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	28
Other circulatory disease	M	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	4
	F	18	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	11
Pneumonia	M	22	2	1	1	1	1	3	5	11
	F	16	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	12
Bronchitis	M	31	1	1	1	1	1	9	16	6
	F	14	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	8
Other diseases of respiratory system	M	5	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2
	F	4	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	M	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	F	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	M	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	F	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	M	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	F	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	M	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	F	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
Congenital malformations	M	4	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	F	4	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	M	13	5	1	1	1	1	3	1	3
	F	17	8	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Motor vehicle accidents	M	7	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1
	F	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
All other accidents	M	11	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	5
	F	6	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	2
Suicide	M	6	1	1	1	2	2	2	1	1
	F	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Totals:	M	309	11	4	1	9	8	113	76	88
	F	266	13	1	2	1	10	45	59	135

DEATHS FROM CANCER IN AGE GROUPS OVER THE PAST TWELVE YEARS AND RATES PER 1,000 OF POPULATION -

Year	Age Groups					Per 1,000 total population	
	1-14	15-44	45-64	65 & over	All ages	Widnes	England & Wales
1954	-	8	30	48	86	1.74	2.04
1955	-	7	40	59	106	2.12	2.06
1956	-	8	46	50	104	2.08	2.08
1957	1	4	45	55	105	2.08	2.09
1958	-	6	48	57	111	2.19	2.12
1959	2	6	32	42	82	1.60	2.14
1960	2	5	46	51	104	2.01	2.16
1961	2	4	49	43	98	1.86	2.16
1962	-	10	42	48	100	1.88	2.18
1963	3	5	36	49	93	1.73	2.18
1964	2	4	59	51	116	2.16	2.21
1965	1	2	54	51	108	1.99	2.23

DETAILS OF CANCER DEATHS OVER THE PAST NINE YEARS -

Year	Site	Age Groups					Rate per 1,000 pop'n	Total All Ages	
		1-14	15-44	45-64	65-74	75 +		M	F
1957	Stomach	-	-	7	8	3	0.36	12	6
	Lung, bronchus	-	-	14	12	4	0.59	26	4
	Other sites	1	4	17	24	11	1.13	31	26
1958	Stomach	-	-	10	8	4	0.43	12	10
	Lung, bronchus	-	-	12	8	3	0.45	20	3
	Other sites	-	6	26	18	16	1.30	26	40
1959	Stomach	-	1	8	3	3	0.29	12	3
	Lung, bronchus	-	-	7	7	1	0.29	13	2
	Other sites	2	5	17	9	19	1.02	18	34
1960	Stomach	-	-	6	8	3	0.33	7	10
	Lung, bronchus	-	3	22	8	2	0.68	33	2
	Other sites	2	2	18	21	9	1.00	29	23
1961	Stomach	-	-	9	4	5	0.34	12	6
	Lung, bronchus	-	-	14	6	3	0.44	20	3
	Other sites	2	4	26	13	12	1.08	21	36
1962	Stomach	-	2	6	6	3	0.32	8	9
	Lung, bronchus	-	3	17	10	5	0.66	29	6
	Other sites	-	5	19	14	10	0.90	23	25
1963	Stomach	-	-	5	5	2	0.22	7	5
	Lung, bronchus	-	-	12	7	3	0.41	19	3
	Other sites	2	6	19	16	16	1.10	30	29
1964	Stomach	-	1	12	6	3	0.41	15	7
	Lung, bronchus	-	-	20	10	3	0.61	29	4
	Other sites	2	3	27	16	13	1.14	26	35
1965	Stomach	-	-	6	3	6	0.28	7	8
	Lung, bronchus	-	-	26	5	5	0.66	33	3
	Other sites	1	2	22	16	16	1.05	26	31

DISEASES OF THE RESPIRATORY SYSTEM -

The following table shows death rates per 1,000 of the population from diseases of the respiratory system which occurred in the Borough, together with corresponding data for England and Wales.

Disease	Widnes	England & Wales
Influenza	Nil	0.017
Pneumonia	0.700	0.662
Bronchitis	0.829	0.619
Other diseases of respiratory system	0.165	0.109
Cancer of lung and bronchus	0.632	0.575
Respiratory tuberculosis	0.129	0.042

DETAILS OF DEATHS DUE TO ACCIDENTS -

There were 25 accidental deaths during 1965. This was 2 more than for the previous year and higher than the average for the previous 10 years. Although there was a reduction in mortality from road accidents over 1964 the figure for 1965 was still above average. Deaths of the elderly resulting from falls was again reduced and fatal works accidents continue to remain at a comparatively low level.

(a) CAUSE OF ACCIDENTAL DEATHS IN AGE GROUPS 1965

CAUSE	Under 1 year	1 - 4 years	5 - 14 years	15 - 44 years	45 - 64 years	65 - 74 years	75 years & over	All ages
Road traffic accidents	-	1	-	3	3	1	-	8
Falls	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	5
Occurring at work	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Burns	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	3
Drowning	-	1	-	1	1	1	-	4
Other accidental deaths	1	-	-	-	2	-	1	4
TOTALS:	1	3	1	4	7	2	7	25

(b) PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF ACCIDENTAL DEATH OVER THE PAST TEN YEARS.

Year	All Causes	Road Traffic	At Work	Falls
1956	19	6	1	6
1957	14	4	2	4
1958	22	4	2	7
1959	18	7	-	4
1960	25	6	3	8
1961	14	6	1	4
1962	26	11	3	6
1963	25	3	3	11
1964	23	11	1	6
1965	25	8	1	5

The following table summarises the vital statistics of the Borough

Year	Live Births		Deaths (all causes)		Stillbirths		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality			
									Total		Neo-natal	
	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n.	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n.	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births
1965	1,197	22.1	575	10.6	16	13	2	1.65	24	20	16	13
1964	1,261	23.5	542	10.1	24	19	1	0.78	32	25	21	17
1963	1,152	21.5	580	10.8	21	18	Nil	Nil	43	37	32	28
1962	1,298	24.4	550	10.3	35	26	1	0.75	37	28	25	22
1961	1,124	21.3	560	10.6	31	27	1	0.87	31	28	21	19
1960	1,156	22.3	529	10.2	35	29	Nil	Nil	34	29	19	16
Avg. 5 years 1960-64	1,198	22.6	552	10.4	29	24	0.6	0.48	35	29	24	20

Adjusted live birth-rate (comparability factor 0.94) - 20.7

Adjusted death rate (comparability factor 1.32) - 14.0

VITAL STATISTICS

The following provisional figures based on the Registrar General's Quarterly Returns of birth and death rates, together with case rates for certain infectious diseases for England and Wales are shown together with corresponding data in respect of the Borough of Widnes

	England & Wales	Borough of Widnes
	Rates per 1,000 population	Rates per 1,000 population
<u>Births:</u>		
Live births	18.1	20.7 (c)
Stillbirths	(0.29 (15.8 (a)	(0.29 (13.2 (a)
<u>Deaths:</u>		
All causes	11.5	14.0 (c)
Tuberculosis (all forms)	0.048	0.129
Respiratory	0.042	0.129
Non-respiratory	0.006	Nil
Cancer (all forms)	2.231	1.99
Lung and bronchus	0.575	0.66
Other cancer	1.656	1.33
Maternal mortality (total)	0.25 (a)	1.65 (a)
Maternal causes (excluding abortion)	0.19 (a)	1.65 (a)
Due to abortion	0.06 (a)	Nil
Infant mortality	19.0 (b)	20.1 (b)
Nec-natal mortality	13.0 (b)	13.4 (b)
<u>Notifications (Corrected):</u>		
Typhoid fever	0.003	0.003
Paratyphoid fever	0.017	0.092
Meningococcal infection	0.009	Nil
Scarlet fever	0.559	0.847
Whooping cough	0.271	0.479
Diphtheria	0.000	Nil
Erysipelas	0.037	Nil
Smallpox	Nil	Nil
Measles	10.511	3.242
Acute Pneumonia	0.167	0.055
Acute Poliomyelitis	0.002	Nil
Acute Encephalitis	0.003	Nil
Dysentery	0.548	0.147
Food Poisoning	0.105	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	0.109	0.055
Tuberculosis -		
Respiratory	0.284	0.129
Meninges and C.N.S.	0.003	Nil
Other	0.050	0.055
Anthrax	0.000	Nil

(a) Per 1,000 total (live and still) births

(b) Per 1,000 related births

(c) Adjusted rate

The following statistics are taken from the annual reports of the Medical Officer of Health for the years 1935, 1945 and 1955 and are shown together with comparable data relating to the year under review. Rates are per 1,000 of the population or as given.

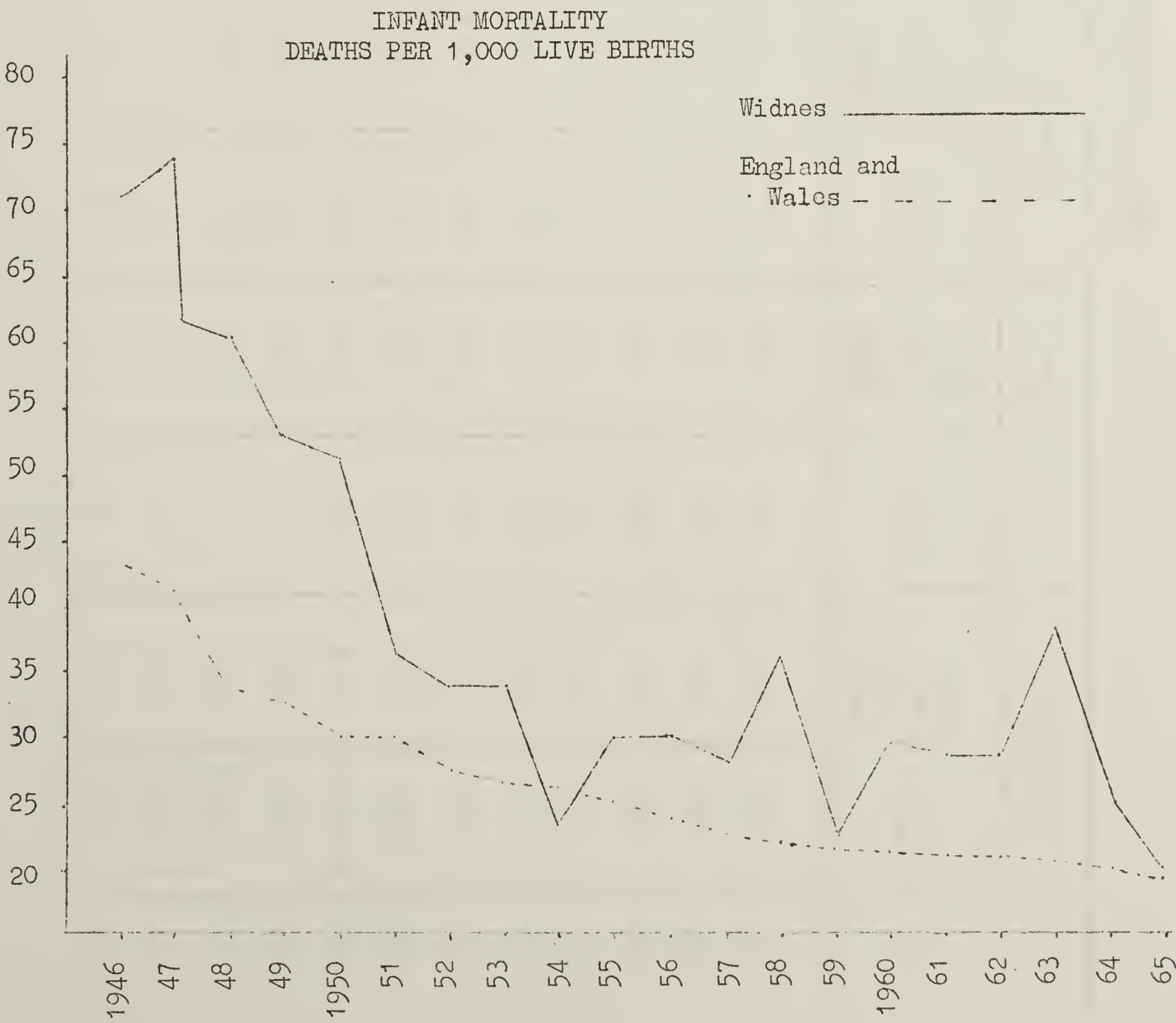
	1965	1955	1945	1935
Estimated population	54,280	49,870	42,030	42,100
Crude birth rate	22.1	19.5	21.5	20.1
Illegitimate live births (percentage of total live births)	5.6	3.3	9.8	2.9
Crude death rate	10.6	10.0	11.9	12.3
Excess of births over deaths	622	469	400	329
Infant mortality per 1,000 births	20	30	80	69
Maternal mortality per 1,000 births	1.65	2.01	4.31	1.12
Deaths from - measles	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.05
diphtheria	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.05
whooping cough	0.02	0.02	Nil	0.05
scarlet fever	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
respiratory tuberculosis	0.13	0.10	0.64	0.62
tuberculosis (other forms)	Nil	Nil	0.14	0.26
cancer	1.99	2.12	2.19	1.19
diseases of circulatory system	3.74	3.19	2.62	3.61
diseases of respiratory system	1.69	1.02	1.50	1.71
vascular lesions of nervous system	1.47	1.04	0.59	0.59
road traffic accidents	0.15	0.08	0.05	0.48
all other accidents	0.31	0.42	0.36	
Deaths under 65 years of age - percentage of total	38	37	51	61

INFANT MORTALITY

The table below records the causes of death of infants under one year of age which occurred during 1965. The 24 deaths provide a rate of 20.1 per 1,000 live births compared with 25.4 per 1,000 for 1964. The substantial decrease recorded for the previous year has therefore been endorsed. As in that year the reduction is accounted for by a fall in deaths due to prematurity and for the first time, this is not the principal cause of infant mortality in Widnes.

The perinatal rate of 25, the stillbirth rate of 13 and stillbirth + infant death rate of 33 per 1,000 total births are, together with the infant death rate, the lowest yet recorded and with the exception of the latter are all lower than the provisional figures for England and Wales for 1965.

CAUSE OF DEATH	Under 1 week	1 - 2 weeks	2 - 3 weeks	3 - 4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1 - 3 months	3 - 6 months	6 - 9 months	9 - 12 months	Total under 1 year
Prematurity	4	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	4
Congenital malformations	3	-	1	-	4	3	-	-	-	7
Birth injuries	3	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	3
Broncho pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Accident	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Other causes	4	1	-	-	5	-	-	1	-	6
Total:	14	1	1	-	16	4	3	1	-	24



DEATHS OF INFANTS 1954 - 65

Year	Live Births		Stillbirths		Neo-natal		Infant Deaths		Perinatal		Stillbirths + Infant Deaths	
	Number	Rate per 1,000 pop'n.	Number	Rate per 1,000 total births	Number	Rate per 1,000 live births	Number	Rate per 1,000 live births	Number	Rate per 1,000 total births	Number	Rate per 1,000 total births
1954	904	18.3	36	38	17	19	22	23	53	56	58	62
1955	970	19.5	26	26	19	20	29	30	45	45	55	55
1956	1,011	20.2	34	33	18	18	30	30	52	50	64	61
1957	1,153	22.9	29	25	23	20	32	28	52	44	61	51
1958	1,045	20.6	26	24	27	26	38	36	53	49	64	60
1959	1,108	21.6	27	24	18	16	26	23	45	37	53	47
1960	1,156	22.3	35	29	19	16	34	29	52	44	69	58
1961	1,121	21.3	31	27	21	19	31	28	48	42	62	54
1962	1,298	23.1	35	26	29	22	37	28	60	45	72	54
1963	1,152	20.2	21	18	32	28	43	37	47	40	64	55
1964	1,261	22.1	24	19	21	17	32	25	42	33	56	44
1965	1,197	20.7	16	13	16	13	24	20	30	25	40	33

LABORATORY FACILITIES -

Specimens were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination during 1965 as follows:-

<u>Origin</u>	<u>Specimen</u>	<u>Positive</u>	<u>Negative</u>
Routine examination of Water	faeces	-	58
Department personnel	urine	-	56
Routine examination of food handlers	faeces	-	49
Suspected food poisoning cases	faeces	7	37
Suspected dysentery cases and contacts	faeces	33	120
Suspected paratyphoid fever cases and contacts	faeces	7	60
Typhoid fever contacts	faeces	-	7
Examination prior to admission to Home	faeces	-	2

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE -

(i) Notifiable Diseases during the Year

DISEASES	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to hospital	Total deaths
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	46	-	-
Paratyphoid	5	2	-
Dysentery	8	2	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia	3	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-
Measles	352	3	-
Whooping Cough	26	3	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Acute Polioencephalitis	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-
Tuberculosis -			
(a) Pulmonary (M	7	8	4
(F	-	2	3
(Total	7	10	7
(b) Non (M	-	1	-
Pulmonary (F	3	-	-
(Total	3	1	-

(ii) Analysis of Notifiable Diseases in Age Groups

C A S E S N O T I F I E D											
NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	Total cases at all ages	Under 1 year	1 - 2 years	3 - 4 years	5 - 9 years	10 - 14 years	15 - 24 years	25 - 44 years	45 - 64 years	65 years and over	Age Unknown
Scarlet Fever 	46	-	3	16	23	4	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria 	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles 	352	24	114	103	106	1	1	-	-	-	3
Whooping Cough 	26	4	6	4	11	-	-	1	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas 	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery 	8	1	3	1	2	-	-	1	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever ...	5	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-
Typhoid Fever 	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Respiratory Tuberculosis											
M	7	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	5	-	-
F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-Res. Tuberculosis											
M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
F	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-
Totals:	453	30	127	124	144	5	4	6	7	-	6

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM -

There were no cases of ophthalmia neonatorum during the year.

SCARLET FEVER -

Forty-six cases were notified during the year. The number of cases notified during the preceeding five years were:

1960 - 30; 1961 - 26; 1962 - 9; 1963 - 49; 1964 - 40.

DIPHTHERIA -

There have been no cases of diphtheria notified in the Borough during the past nine years.

TYPHOID & PARATYPHOID FEVER -

There were no cases of typhoid fever occurring in the Borough during the year but in two instances intimation was received of Widnes families having been in direct contact with known cases elsewhere. Specimens were taken in each case with negative results.

There were five cases of paratyphoid fever, three of which were connected with an outbreak having its origin in the Fylde area. There was no connection between this incident and the other two cases which also appeared to be isolated from each other. No deaths resulted from the disease.

ACUTE ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS -

For the third year in succession there were no cases of poliomyelitis notified in the Borough. The following table shows details of the incidence of the disease during the previous fourteen years. Only one of these cases had been inoculated against the disease and this was a very mild attack.

Year	No. of cases	No. of deaths	Year	No. of cases	No. of deaths
1951	1	-	1958	3	-
1952	3	-	1959	7	-
1953	2	-	1960	-	-
1954	4	1	1961	2	-
1955	4	-	1962	1	-
1956	8	-	1963	-	-
1957	-	-	1964	-	-

FOOD POISONING -

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year but an outbreak which occurred in a Bournemouth hotel resulted in three Widnes holidaymakers becoming infected with the disease. Infection was discovered on their return home after I had been informed of the outbreak by the Medical Officer of Health of Bournemouth and specimens had been taken. Positive salmonella enteritidis results were obtained which coincided with positive results obtained from contacts in Bournemouth.

TUBERCULOSIS -

Details of cases of tuberculosis and of deaths from the disease during 1965 will be found in the following table:-

Age Periods (Years)	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 9	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
10 - 14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 19	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 34	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
35 - 44	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
45 - 54	3	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
55 - 64	2	-	-	-	3	1	-	-
65 upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	7	-	-	3	4	3	-	-
	7		3		7		-	

Table 2 shows the incidence of tuberculosis in the Borough during the past thirty years.

Annual Average	Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	
	Case rate per 1,000 popula- tion	Death rate per 1,000 popula- tion	Case rate per 1,000 popula- tion	Death rate per 1,000 popula- tion
1935 - 1939	0.80	0.58	0.61	0.16
1940 - 1944	0.93	0.71	0.52	0.14
1945 - 1949	1.13	0.58	0.41	0.09
1950 - 1954	1.15	0.30	0.20	0.03
1955 - 1959	0.55	0.06	0.10	0.01
1960 - 1964	0.32	0.05	0.03	0.00
1965	0.13	0.13	0.05	Nil

There were 7 cases of respiratory tuberculosis and 7 deaths from the disease giving a rate in each case of .13 per 1,000 of the population. Paradoxically this is roughly half the case rate and double the death rate for the previous year. The number of deaths in 1965 was out of character with the trend over the past 20 years which has been continuously and at times rapidly downwards. The fall in the case rate was equally unexpected, not because of a reversal in the trend which has been almost as decisive as the death rate but because of the size of the fall. It has come at a time when any further gains in the field were expected to be minimal. When dealing with comparatively small samples, results for any one year have little statistical significance so that future results are awaited with interest. If the case rate trend continues, death rates for the disease will soon be of no interest to us.

Three cases of non-respiratory tuberculosis were notified during the year but there were once again no deaths from this cause.

Twenty-three cases of respiratory and 4 cases of other forms of tuberculosis were reported as having recovered from the disease during 1965 and the numbers remaining on the register at the end of the year were as follows:-

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Respiratory tuberculosis	157	151
Tuberculosis - other forms	11	14

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR ON THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

A record of the work of the Public Health Department is as follows:-

No. of premises visited	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,991
No. of visits made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,681
Defects or nuisances:	No discovered								1,410
	No abated								1,354
No. of notices served:	Informal								510
	Statutory								112
No. of legal proceedings taken	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10

Premises kept under observation										No. of Premises
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	188
Food Premises										
General Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	126
Greengrocers (including those selling wet fish)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Meat Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Bakers and Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Sweet Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
Licensed Premises, Cafes and Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	155
Wholesale	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Manufacturing (other than retail)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Agricultural Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Shops (other than food)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	320
Schools - Primary	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Secondary	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Further Education	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Nursery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Special	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Places of entertainment and recreation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	65
Premises visited for investigation of infectious disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	67
Premises disinfected after infectious disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Premises disinfested	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	116

DITCHES AND WATER COURSES -

During the year one sample of water and one sample of sludge were taken from water courses within the Borough and submitted for examination to the Public Health Laboratory Service. Negative results were obtained.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL -

There are at present no sewage disposal works in the Borough and there is an area of land not at present served by a main drainage system. Work on a main drainage scheme covering the whole of the Borough and including the construction of treatment works is however in progress.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION -

There are fourteen closets attached to privy middens but they are situated in the rural part of the Borough where conversion is difficult owing to the absence of adequate sewers. It is calculated that 16,450 houses are provided with fresh water closets.

REFUSE REMOVAL -

This work is carried out entirely by the Highways Department, for which purpose covered vehicles are used. There are fourteen ash pits attached to privies; the remaining houses in the Borough are provided with portable bins.

DISINFESTATION -

Forty-five houses belonging to the Corporation, sixty-five private dwellings and six other premises were treated because of verminous infestation. In addition houses in clearance areas were inspected and where necessary disinfested prior to tenants' removal to Corporation houses.

HOUSING ACTS, 1936-57 -

The table set out below shows details of property represented for demolition or closure during 1965.

PROPERTY	Number of houses dealt with		
	Individual houses		Clearance Areas
	Closure	Demolition	
11/41 Cross Street	-	-	16
2/14 & 17 Grenfell Street	-	-	20
1, 5, 9, 11 & 2/16 Gerrard Street	-	-	3
9, 11, 13 Grenfell Street	-	-	4
1, 3, 5, 7 Grenfell Street	-	-	87
15 Gerrard Street	-	-	3
4/54 Midwood Street	-	-	8
7/17 & 21/53 Midwood Street	-	-	34
50/76 Timperley Street	-	-	-
3/47 Travis Street	-	-	-
2/6 Harrison Street	-	-	-
2/16 Timperley Street	-	-	-
5/65 Pitt Street	-	-	-
2/6 West Bank Street	-	-	-
33 Princes Street	1	-	-
107 & 109 Derby Road	-	2	-
153a Albert Road	-	1	-
29 & 31 Moor Lane	-	2	-
35 Widnes Road (part)	1	-	-
160/168 Milton Road	-	5	-
TOTAL:	2	10	175

It will be observed that eight clearance areas involving 175 houses, and 10 individual unfit houses were represented for demolition and 2 for closure during 1965. During this period 127 houses were demolished and 5 closed involving the displacement of 538 persons and 165 families.

New house construction by the Local Authority during 1965 was 167 houses and 99 flats.

The following table shows the number of unfit houses dealt with during the past 10 years:

Year	No. of houses represented	No. of houses closed	No. of houses demolished	No. of families displaced
1956	49	1	8	13
1957	123	7	51	51
1958	138	11	80	126
1959	29	8	140	82
1960	303	9	34	43
1961	47	14	59	98
1962	34	3	110	158
1963	139	2	77	88
1964	147	4	101	95
1965	187	2	127	165

HOUSING AND SLUM CLEARANCE -

Progress in the clearance of unfit dwellings has been maintained during the year, although the problem still remains a large one. The proposals submitted in 1964 were reviewed in the light of Circular 11/65 of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, and 1,493 houses were listed as unfit.

Much of the worst slum property in Widnes has been cleared during the past ten years, and the problem now remains one of dealing with worn out, sub-standard terraced houses, lacking in the basic amenities. Most of this property was hastily built between 1860 and 1880, when the population of the town expanded from 6,893 to 24,918, and is poor both in design and construction.

The present problem is therefore one of dealing with over one thousand unfit dwellings that have yet to be represented. At the present rate of progress this task will take at least ten years. Considered in the light of urban renewal, the task is an urgent one. There is an increasing reluctance on the part of owners of properties included in the Council's clearance proposals to undertake any but the most essential repairs. This in turn is hastening the decay of whole areas of old dwellinghouses.

During the year 15 improvement grants and 12 standard grants were approved and work was completed in 32 and 14 cases respectively.

Although the rate of representation and demolition of unfit houses has remained at a fairly high level, the rapid clearance of all unfit dwellings is essential if the improvement of public health in the Borough is to be maintained. The clearance of unfit houses remains one of the major environmental tasks of the Public Health Department.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES -

There are 4 common lodging houses in the Borough. One of these was registered in 1963, another in 1961 and both are of good standard. The other 2 are old but are adequately supervised and in fair condition. Regular inspections are made of these premises.

RENT ACT, 1957 -

Very little use was made during 1965 of the provisions of the First Schedule of the Act. The following table shows details of applications and certificates issued since 1957.

	June, 1957 to Dec., 1965	1965
Applications for Certificates of Disrepair received	499	1
Applications for Certificates of Disrepair accepted	490	1
Undertakings accepted (on Form K)	289	-
Certificates of Disrepair issued	119	-
Certificates of Disrepair cancelled upon application	42	4
Applications for Certificates as to the Remedying of Defects (on Form O): by Tenants	5	-
by Landlords	4	-
Certificates granted: to Tenants	4	-
to Landlords	4	-

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963 -

A separate report on the administration of this Act during 1965 has been published and the following is a summary of that report:-

Registrations and General Inspections -

Class of Premises	No. of premises registered during year	Total number of registered premises at end of year	No. of regis- tered premises receiving a general ins- pection during the year
Offices	14	86	23
Retail shops	40	296	110
Wholesale shops, warehouses	1	5	4
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	1	68	5
Fuel storage depots	1	2	1
Totals	57	457	143

Number of visits of all kinds by inspectors to registered premises - 375

Analysis of Persons Employed in Registered Premises by Workplace -

Class of Workplace	Number of persons employed
Offices	1,005
Retail shops	1,193
Wholesale departments, warehouses	71
Catering establishments open to public	378
Canteens	18
Fuel storage depots	24
Total	2,689
Total males	715
Total females	1,974

Table of Contraventions Found -

	Catering premises open to public	Shops	Ware-houses	Offices	Fuel depots
Not in clean condition	2	32	-	9	-
Overcrowded	-	2	-	1	-
Inadequately heated	-	57	-	5	-
Without thermometer	2	105	-	25	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	10	-	3	-
Lighting	Standards not yet formulated				
Sanitary conveniences -					
Insufficient in number	-	9	-	-	-
Not clean or in good repair	1	37	-	8	-
Not lit	-	43	-	3	1
Washing facilities -					
Insufficient in number or defective	1	19	-	2	-
No hot water	-	23	-	11	-
Inadequate sitting facilities	-	1	-	-	-
Defective floors, passages and stairs	1	27	-	8	-
Machinery not fenced or guarded	-	2	-	1	-
Deficient first-aid equipment	1	105	-	27	1
Without Abstract of Act displayed	2	80	-	17	1

Accidents -

During the year 15 accidents were reported, 10 of which occurred to females. In every case discussions were held with employers and, where it was considered necessary, recommendations were made.

Prosecutions -

Legal proceedings, under Section 48 (1) of the Act, were instituted against a retail trading company for failing to notify an accident which had occurred on registered premises. The company was fined £5 and ordered to pay £5 5s 0d advocates fee.

SWIMMING BATHS -

There is one Corporation owned public swimming bath in the Borough. It is of modern design, completed in 1961, with a capacity of 220 bathers an hour. The water is deep well from the Widnes Corporation mains and is treated with chlorine, soda and alum. There is continuous filtration with a turnover period of three hours.

During 1963 a fixed type indoor swimming pool (capacity 25,000 gallons) was installed at Oakfield Primary School. It is used by that school and five others, averaging between 250 and 300 pupils per day. The water is deep well from Widnes Corporation mains and sterilisation is by automatic addition of liquid hypochlorite with sodium carbonate added by hand when necessary. There is continuous filtration with a turnover period of five hours.

A portable type indoor swimming pool was installed during 1962 at West Bank Primary School for the use of children at that school. The water is deep well from Widnes Corporation mains and sterilisation is by means of addition of sodium hypochlorite. There is continuous filtration with a turnover period of eight hours. This bath was only in use for part of the year.

Samples are taken from the water of these pools at regular intervals and submitted for bacteriological examination. One hundred and six samples of bath water were taken during the year, all with satisfactory results.

WATER SUPPLY -

The water supply of the area has been satisfactory both in quantity and quality. The waters are not liable to have plumber solvent action and no form of contamination was discovered. The results of bacteriological examination and chemical analysis of samples of the water taken during the year are shown in the following table.

	Bacteriological examinations			Chemical analysis		
	No. taken	No. satisfactory	No. unsatisfactory	No. taken	No. satisfactory	No. unsatisfactory
Of the raw water	-	-	-	-	-	-
Of water going into supply where treatment is installed	685	685	-	14	14	-

All the dwellings in the Borough numbering 16,464, and an estimated population of 54,280 were supplied direct from public water mains.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960 -

During the year complaints arose from alleged noise nuisances from two industrial sources.

The first was concerned with a high speed fan blower which forms part of a new contact acid plant. When the plant was first brought into operation residents within a radius of half a mile from the plant were disturbed by the noise emitted from this fan. Initially sound levels of 60 dB to 70 dB were recorded at night for a considerable distance downwind of the factory. The frequency components of the noise showed peak levels at 53 c.p.s. and 425 c.p.s. Extensive work was quickly put in hand by the Company concerned, which included fitting a silencer on the air intake to the fan, cladding all exposed ducting with sound insulation, and improving sound insulation throughout the plant. This work, when completed, was effective in damping the noise down to an acceptable level. No serious complaint has arisen since.

The second cause for complaint arose over the operation of drop hammers in a building which is in close proximity to dwellinghouses. Negotiations with the Company concerned were commenced during the year.

There is no doubt that there is a greater public awareness of the undesirability of noise, and the department has spent a considerable amount of time investigating complaints and measuring noise levels.

AIR POLLUTION AND SMOKE ABATEMENT

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956 -

Domestic Smoke Control

Progress was maintained on the Council's Smoke Control programme with the confirmation of No. 5 Smoke Control Order. This Order extends the area of smoke control in the Borough by 46.7 acres, bringing it up to a total of 1,864.5 acres. The number of dwellings originally included in Orders up to 1965 was 4,850. It is estimated that with private and local authority housing development since 1959 in existing smoke control areas that approximately 6,000 dwellings are subject to smoke control. Comparison of the recorded levels of pollution during the year as well as visual observation indicate clearly the effectiveness of smoke control.

As in previous years compliance with Smoke Control Orders continues to be generally very good. It was, however, necessary to warn a number of householders about contravention of the Orders.

INDUSTRIAL -

There has been a continued improvement in smoke pollution from industrial sources during the year, although it was necessary to take proceedings in one case for a contravention of Section 16 of the Clean Air Act, 1956. The Company was fined and an abatement order was made.

The position with regard to odour and fumes from processes related to the chemical industry is less satisfactory, and there have been numerous complaints during the year. Two processes have given rise to the most complaints, one involving the use of trimethylamine and the other concerned with the manufacture of sulphuric acid.

The presence of acid mist and occasionally of acid droplet fall-out has given rise to frequent complaints in the vicinity of this contact acid plant. Although an additional pump for the hydrochloric acid scrubber was fitted to the trimethylamine process, complaints continued to arise.

As in previous years I would like to record my sincere appreciation of the help and advice received from the District Alkali Works Inspector.

There are 53 major factories in the Borough, and the nature of their industries is tabulated below:-

Heavy chemicals	14
Foundries & Smelting Works (including Copper Smelters)	4
Soap	1
Asbestos Cement	2
Sawmills	4
Oil Blending	2
Insulating Materials & Light Engineering	3
Joinery Manufacturers	1
Gelatine, Animal Food, Offensive Trades	4
Fine Chemicals	4
Cement	1
Granite & Crushed Stone	1
Drum Manufacture	1
Paper Bags	1
Power Station	1
Fertiliser Manufacture	2
Meal Millers	1
Food Manufacture	2
Textiles	2
Scientific Apparatus	2

RECORDINGS -

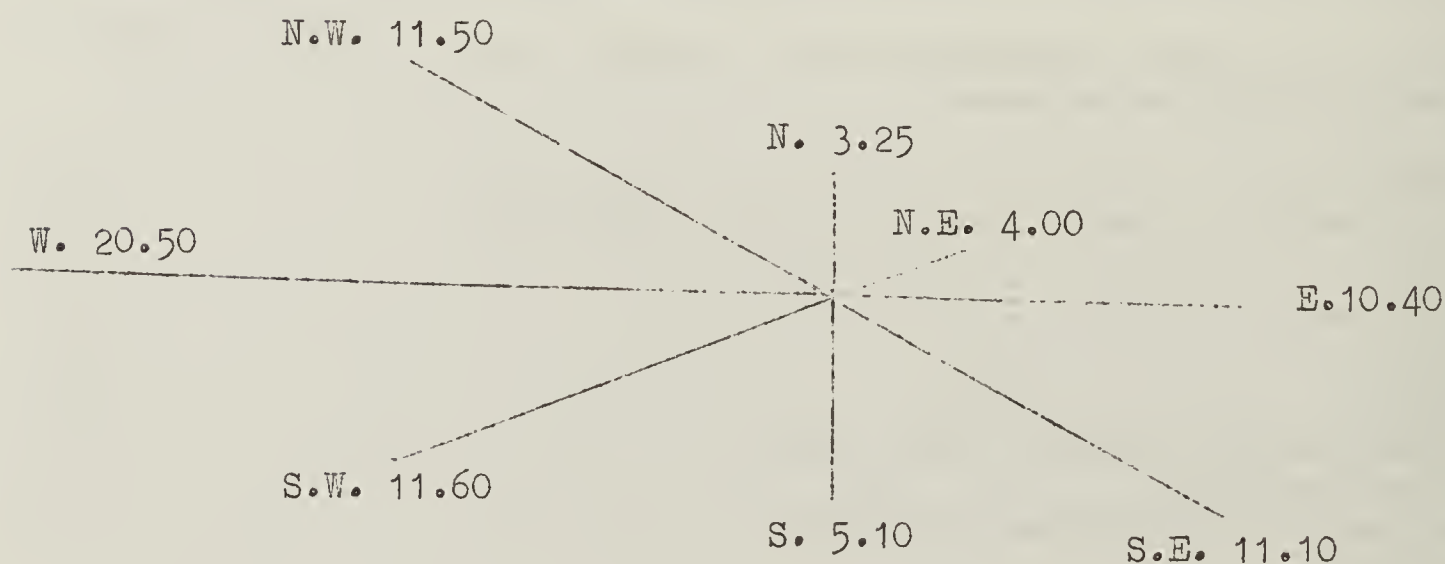
Throughout the year three volumetric instruments for recording smoke and sulphur dioxide were in use.

	Daily average SO ₂ concentration mcGms/cu. metre	Daily average smoke concentration mcGms/cu. metre
Instrument 1 Health Centre (Mixed industrial and residential area without smoke control)	254	156
Instrument 2 Crow Wood (Predominantly residential without smoke control)	188	150
Instrument 3 Oakfield Primary School (Predominantly residential but smoke control area)	153	91

Assessment of the two inch diameter smoke stains was carried out with a photo-electric reflectometer. Throughout the year daily meteorological records were kept.

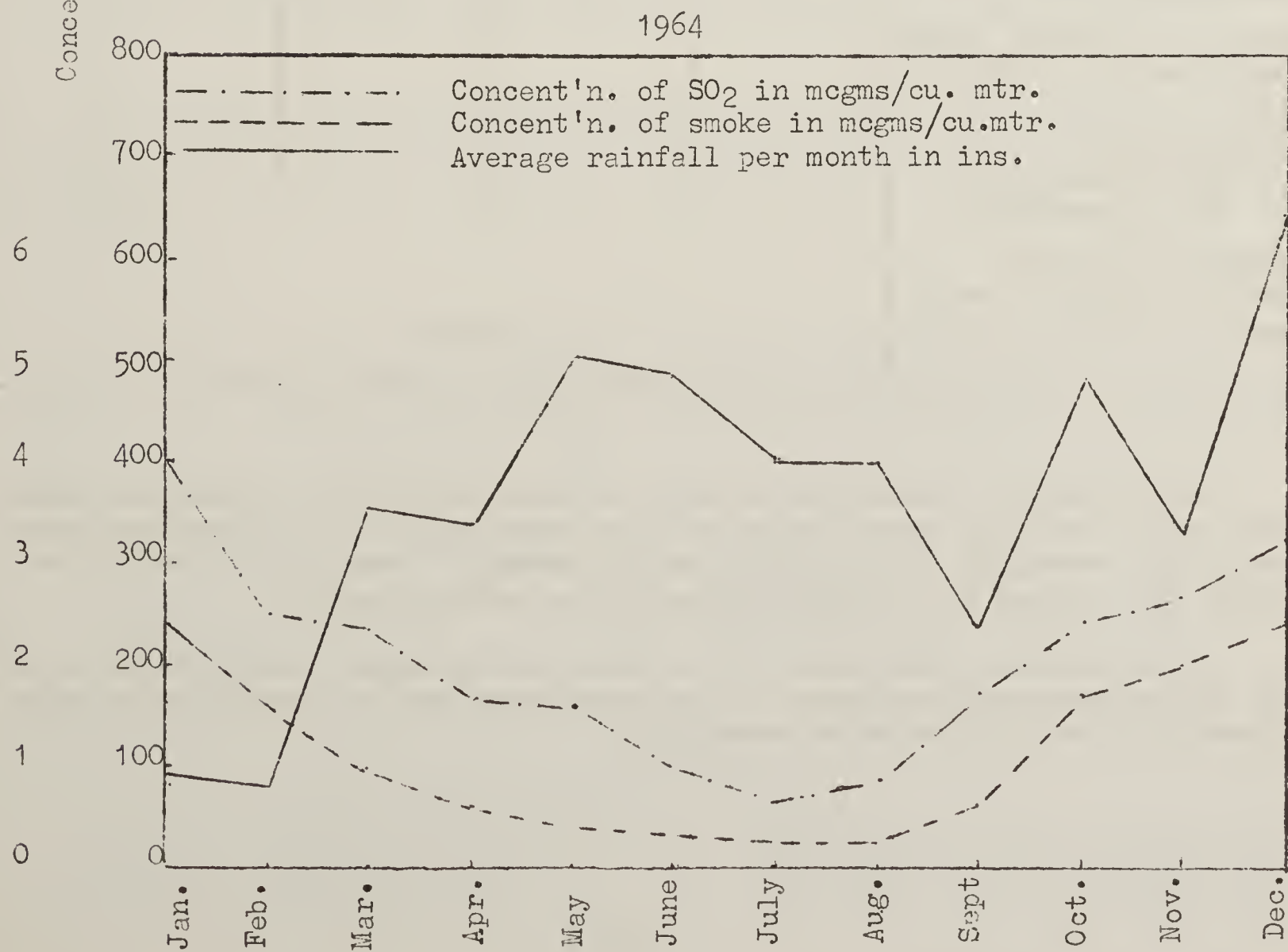
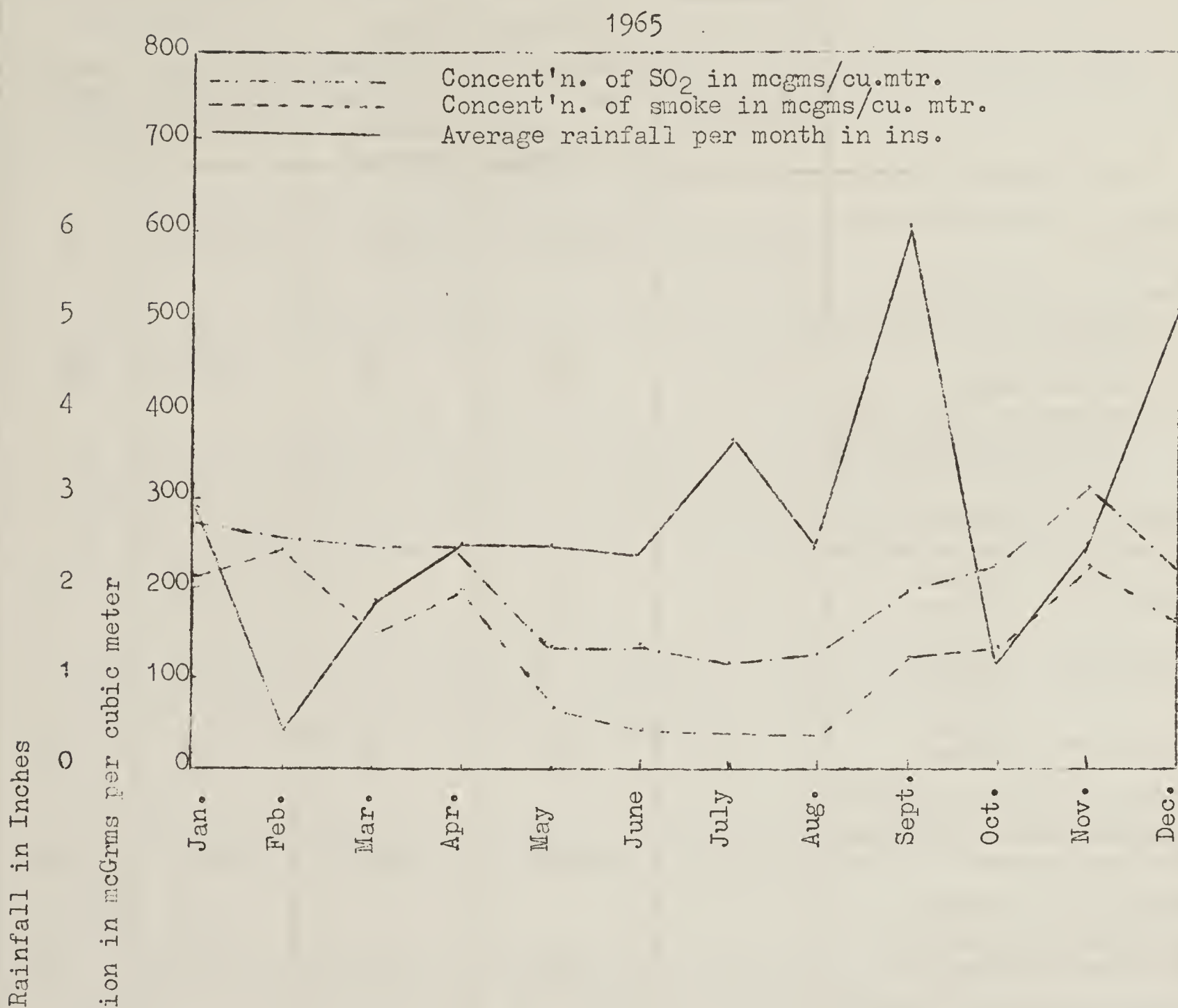
The relatively low level of pollution recorded on instrument No. 3 indicates that despite smoke drift from adjacent areas, smoke control has been very effective in that area.

PERCENTAGE WIND DIRECTION 1965



Calm 22.3

GRAPH SHOWING MONTHLY AVERAGES FROM
VOLUMETRIC INSTRUMENTS AND MONTHLY TOTAL RAINFALL



RODENT CONTROL -

Two rodent operators were employed by the Local Authority and carried out their work to the formula of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. A summary of the work carried out during the period is appended.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	Non-Agricultural				Agri- cultur- al
	Local Authority	Dwelling houses (inc. Coun cil houses)	All other including Business Premises	Total of Cols. (1) (2) & (3)	
Number of properties in district	53	16,176	2,016	18,345	34
Number of properties inspected as a result of					
(a) Notification	14	377	80	471	3
(b) Survey under the Act	13	801	30	844	19
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose)	-	-	-	-	-
Number of properties found to be infested by:					
Common Rat (Major	-	-	-	-	-
(Minor	9	373	76	458	17
Ship Rat (Major	-	-	-	-	-
(Minor	-	-	-	-	-
House Mouse (Major	-	-	-	-	-
(Minor	7	81	16	104	-
Total inspections carried out - including re-inspections	92	2,338	385	2,815	86
Number of infested properties treated by the Local Authority	16	454	92	562	17
Total treatment carried out - including re-treatments	21	490	188	699	56
Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act					
(a) Treatment	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Structural works (i.e. proofing)	-	-	-	-	-
Number of "Block" control schemes carried out					
					N I L

Rodent control within the Borough has been effectively maintained during the year and in addition to the above detailed inspection and treatment numerous areas were surveyed, and treated where necessary. Sewer treatment with acute poison was carried out intensively during the summer months.

A considerable proportion of the factories and agricultural premises within the Borough are under contract to the Corporation and the remainder are kept under observation and treated where necessary.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

MILK SUPPLY -

During the year two licences authorising the sale of pre-packed milk from premises within the Borough were issued. Licences in existence at the end of 1965 were as follows:-

For the sale of sterilised milk only	109
For the sale of pasteurised milk only	4
For the sale of pasteurised and sterilised milk	74

In addition, one Dealer's (Pasteuriser's) Licence was in force. The total number of dealers registered at the end of the year was one hundred and eighty-six.

One hundred and forty-three samples of pasteurised milk were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination under the methylene blue and phosphatase tests and 4 samples of sterilised milk for the turbidity test. These with the exception of 3 samples which failed the methylene blue test, one which failed the phosphatase test, and 10 void samples, were reported to be satisfactory.

Thirty samples of milk were taken and submitted for analysis during the year and were all reported to be genuine. Twelve of these samples were also submitted to tests designed to detect the presence of anti-biotics. In all cases negative results were obtained.

ICE CREAM -

One hundred and twelve premises are registered for the sale of ice-cream and during the year regular inspections of shops and vehicles were made.

OTHER FOODS -

Twenty samples of food other than milk were taken for analysis and were reported to be genuine. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food have made draft proposals for the composition of meat pies and in anticipation of these proposals being embodied in regulations, 6 samples were taken. . Of these, 2 samples were below the proposed standard and retailers were notified.

Two hundred and ninety-three samples of gelatine were submitted for bacteriological examination and with 2 exceptions were found to be satisfactory. One sample was positive salmonella minnesota and the other singapore and newington.

INSPECTIONS -

Six hundred and sixty-nine inspections of premises where food is prepared, stored or sold and regular inspection of street trading and food delivery vehicles were made by public health inspectors during the year. Sixty-eight formal notices were served with regard to the contravention of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960. Details of inspections carried out are as follows:-

Wholesale & Retail Premises	459	Cafes & Restaurants	48
Dairies	12	Canteens	48
Food Manufacturing	26	Street Trading Vehicles	51
Bakehouses	10	Hotels & Clubs	15

PROSECTIONS -

Adulteration of Food - Food & Drugs Act, 1955

1: Section 2	Washer in meat pie	£10 fine	£5	5s. advocates fee
2: Section 8	Mouldy meat pie	£10 fine	£5	5s. advocates fee
3: Section 8	Mouldy meat pie	£10 fine	£5	5s. advocates fee

4:	Section 8	Chickens unfit for consumption	£10 fine	£4	4s advocates fee
5:	Section 2	Cockroach in potato crisps	£20 fine	£5	5s advocates fee

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

1:	Regulation 6	Articles of equipment not clean	£10 fine)		
	Regulation 6	Articles of equipment not clean	£10 fine)		
	Regulation 8	Placing food to involve risk of contamination	£10 fine)	£5	5s Od
	Regulation 14	Sanitary conveniences not clean	£10 fine)		advocates
	Regulation 23	Walls, floors & ceilings etc., not clean	£20 fine)		fee

The following cases of alleged adulteration of food were investigated by public health inspectors but legal action was impracticable or considered to be unnecessary or inadvisable.

- 1: Malt loaf in mouldy condition.
- 2: Jar strained pears and pineapple - growth of mould.
- 3: Tin of pork luncheon meat - unusual taste and odour.
- 4: Loaf of bread containing a beetle.
- 5: Trifle containing a splinter of wood.
- 6: Bottle of milk containing a portion of leaf.
- 7: Loaf of bread in mouldy condition.
- 8: Meat pie containing silver paper.
- 9: Milk bottle in dirty condition.
- 10: Magnesium ammonium phosphate (struvite) crystals in canned salmon.

FOOD HYGIENE

As in previous years considerable emphasis has been placed on the training and education of food handlers.

The most discouraging aspect of this work is that many young people drift in and out of the food trade without any training in elementary hygiene. In the distributive and catering trades, with certain notable exceptions, little or no attempt is made to train employees in basic food hygiene practice. In many cases employers and self employed food traders seem unaware of the risks arising from defective hygienic methods.

The department's efforts during the year have been directed to overcoming this problem. Attention has been drawn to faulty handling and storage of perishable foods, particularly cooked meats. In order to make this instruction more effective, and to bring home to food handlers the consequences of unsatisfactory handling and storage, bacteriological samples were taken.

It is rewarding to report that in many cases where the results of these examinations were conveyed to the food handlers, a marked improvement in handling, display and storage took place.

Although talks, posters, instruction booklets and film strips have a definite place in food hygiene education, I am convinced that practical fieldwork of this nature is more productive of positive improvement than any other method so far devised.

The practice of storing and displaying cooked meats and other open food in shop windows, particularly during the summer months, has given rise to some concern. Efforts have been made to persuade shop keepers to provide refrigerated display units in windows. The open display of meat, cooked meat and confectionery in shop windows at atmospheric temperature is an anachronism.

During the year attention has also been directed to improving standards in licensed premises, both public houses and clubs. There has been a general improvement in hygienic conditions in all these premises. The provision of wash hand basins and facilities for the washing of equipment in licensed premises is not yet a hundred per cent but this matter is in hand. Otherwise as will be observed from the following table food premises in general are satisfactorily equipped.

Category of trade	No. of premises	No. of premises fitted to comply with Reg. 16	No. of premises to which Reg. 19 applies	No. of premises fitted to comply with Reg. 19
Manufacturing premises (including bakehouses)	9	9	9	9
Canteens/Restaurants	79	79	79	79
Butchers	41	41	41	41
Greengrocers & fish	25	24	25	24
General/Grocers	126	126	126	125
Sweets, ice-cream	45	45	45	44
Fish & chips	25	25	25	25
Confectioners	10	10	10	10
Warehouses	1	1	-	-
Licensed premises (including clubs)	76	38	74	56
Totals:	437	398	434	413

FOOD SAMPLING -

The following statement shows the number of samples taken under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and the results of the analysis.

Sample of	No. of samples	Genuine	Not genuine
Milk	30	30	-
Malt vinegar	2	2	-
Jam	1	1	-
Calcium drink with vitamin	1	1	-
Tea	1	1	-
Ham & chicken roll	1	1	-
Curry powder	1	1	-
Margarine	2	2	-
Ham tivoli	1	1	-
Oxtail soup	1	1	-
Meat pie	5	5	-
Meat & potato pie	1	1	-
Evaporated milk	1	1	-
Cranberry sauce	1	1	-
Corned beef	1	1	-

Samples of food taken for bacteriological examination were as follows:-

Sample of	No. of samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Gelatine	293	291	2
Corned beef	2	2	-
Pork luncheon meat	1	1	-
Yoghurt	1	1	-
Steak & kidney pie	1	1	-
Ice-cream	4	3	1
Milk	147	133	4
Other cooked meats	45	7	38

UN SOUND FOOD -

The following unwholesome foodstuffs were condemned during the year:-

Food	lbs.	ozs.	Pints	Pkts./ Cartons
Evaporated milk	-	-	26	-
Tinned fruit	510	-	-	-
Pre-packed vegetables ...	1,150	-	-	537
Pre-packed tomatoes ...	130	-	-	-
Milk pudding	71	-	-	-
Soups	10	-	-	-
Steak	61	8	-	8
Corned beef	90	-	-	-
Luncheon meat	165	-	-	-
Ham	275	-	-	-
Tongue	55	-	-	-
Baked beans	79	-	-	-
Fish	988	-	-	57
Butter	3	-	-	-
Veal	6	-	-	-
Poultry	633	-	-	-
Liver	3	3	-	-
Hindquarter beef	144	-	-	-
Pie filling	10	4	-	-
Macaroni	6	1	-	-
Irish stew	5	-	-	-
Pork shoulder	113	-	-	-
Dried milk	56	-	-	-
Cream	2	-	-	6
Steak & kidney pies ...	5	-	-	14
Sweet corn	2	12	-	-
Jam	30	-	-	-
Fruit juice	1	7	-	-
Beefburgers	144	-	-	59
Lard	1	-	-	-
Cranberry sauce	1	5	-	-
Chipped potatoes	55	-	-	11
Fish cakes	40	-	-	32
Pastry	35	-	-	124
Braised beef	-	-	-	34
Cakes	-	-	-	40
Cheeseburgers	-	-	-	12
Potato croquettes	-	-	-	10
Chicken pie	-	-	-	6
Dinner for one	-	-	-	5
Sliced beef in gravy ...	-	-	-	9
Shepherds pie	-	-	-	3
Pork sausage	5	-	-	-
Beef sausage	3	-	-	-

This list includes food condemned as a result of refrigerator breakdowns.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

1: INSPECTIONS -

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspection	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	4	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	170	29	5	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	13	15	-	-
TOTAL	188	48	5	-

2: CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND -

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	8	8	-	4	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	8	8	-	4	-

3: OUTWORK -

No notifications were received of outworkers employed in the Borough during the year.

